

shipped, handled and inventoried as a separate item. Such tying, along with the tying of the vertical cord portions 27, will act to keep the cord and louver assembly 15 together as a neat bundle before such vertical elevation cords 37 and vertical cord portions 27 are untied to begin the sizing and assembly steps.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 7 & 8 to read as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A cord and louver assembly comprising:
a pair of ladder cords, including a first and a second ladder cord each ladder cord having a first and a second vertical cord portion each having a first and second end, said ladder cord including a plurality of spaced apart horizontal cord portions each having a first end connected to said first vertical cord portion and a second end connected to said second vertical cord portion, adjacent horizontal cord portions forming, with said first and second cord portion of each of said first and second ladder cords, a ladder opening;

a plurality of louvers, each louver within a ladder opening of each of said pair of ladder cords, each of said plurality of louvers having a first and a second elevation cord opening;

a base louver having a first and a second bore, each of said first and said second bores for accommodating an end plug;

a first end plug[,] having an aperture, for fitting within said first bore of said base louver;

a second end plug[,] having an aperture, for fitting within

said second bore of said base louver, said second ends of said first and second vertical cord portions of said first and second ladder cords secured by said base louver and said first and said second end plugs, said first ends of said first and said second ladder cords extending beyond a ladder opening occupied by a louver farthest from said base louver by a length greater than required for connection to a channel and component assembly of a horizontal blind set;

a first vertical elevation cord, having a first end and a second end, and extending through each said first elevation cord openings of said plurality of louvers, and said aperture of said first end plug and affixed adjacent said first end of said first vertical elevation cord to secure said first vertical elevation cord first end from pulling free of said first end plug, said second end of said first vertical elevation cord extending beyond a first ladder opening of said first ladder cord occupied by a louver farthest from said base louver by a length greater than required for connection of said second end of said vertical elevation cord to a channel and component assembly of a horizontal blind set;

a second vertical elevation cord, having a first end and a second end, and extending through each said second elevation cord openings of said plurality of louvers, and said aperture of said second end plug and affixed adjacent said first end of said second vertical elevation cord to secure said second vertical

elevation cord first end from pulling free of said second end plug, said second end of said second vertical elevation cord extending beyond a first ladder opening of said second ladder cord occupied by a louver farthest from said base louver by a length greater than required for connection of said second end of said vertical elevation cord to a channel and component assembly of a horizontal blind set, said first and said second end plugs also for securing said first ends of said first and said second ladder cords.

2. (Amended) The cord and louver assembly as recited in claim 1 and wherein said first and said second vertical elevation cords are bundled together adjacent their respective [second] first ends of their said first and second vertical cord portions to secure said cord and louver assembly as a unit.

5. (Amended) A process of forming a horizontal blind set comprising the steps of:

in a cord and louver assembly having:

a pair of ladder cords, each ladder cord having a first and a second vertical cord portion each having a first and second end, said ladder cord including a plurality of spaced apart horizontal cord portions each having a first end connected to said first vertical cord portion and a second

end connected to said second vertical cord portion, adjacent horizontal cord portions forming, with said first and second cord portion, a ladder opening;

a plurality of louvers, each louver within a ladder opening of each of said pair of ladder cords, each of said plurality of louvers having a first and a second elevation cord opening;

a base louver having a first and a second bore, each of said first and said second bores for accommodating an end plug;

a first end plug[,] having an aperture, for fitting within said bore of said base louver;

a second end plug[,] having an aperture, for fitting within said second bore of said base louver;

a first vertical elevation cord, having a first end and a second end, and extending through each said first elevation cord openings of said plurality of louvers, and said aperture of said first end plug and affixed adjacent said first end of said first vertical elevation cord to secure said first vertical elevation cord first end from pulling free of said first end plug;

a second vertical elevation cord, having a first end and a second end, and extending through each said second elevation cord openings of said plurality of louvers, and said aperture of said second end plug and affixed adjacent

said first end of said second vertical elevation cord to secure said second vertical elevation cord first end from pulling free of said second end plug, said first and said second end plugs also for securing said first ends of said first and said second ladder cords;

extending said second ends of said first and said second vertical elevation cords through respective first and second small apertures in the base of a channel and component assembly for exiting said channel and component assembly at a location to enable users to pull said first and said second vertical elevation cords to raise and lower said base louver;

extending said second ends of said first and a second vertical cord portions of said a pair of ladder cords through respective openings in said channel and component assembly;

attaching said second ends of said first and a second vertical cord portions of said a pair of ladder cords each to a respective rotation member of said channel and component assembly, to form said horizontal blind set.

7. (Amended) The process of forming a horizontal blind set as recited in claim 5 and further comprising the step of unbundling said first and said second vertical elevation cords adjacent their respective second ends to [dissemble] disassemble said cord and louver assembly from its unitary status.